



August 2010

[Nebraska Department of Education](#)

Office of Multicultural/Native  
American Education

[www.education.ne.gov/mce](http://www.education.ne.gov/mce)

Written by Carol Rempp

## So Many Changes...

### We are improving every day

Every year brings new adventures and 2010-2011 looks to be no different! I had hoped that this summer would be full of relaxation and the proverbial catching up. That was not to be. The NDE Office of Multicultural Education was a busy place. I hope that all of you will take time each month to look through *The Drum* and check in on our new and improved website to keep up with all of the latest events and updates as the coming school year is shaping up to be busy!

I was fortunate over the summer to have both personal and professional adventures. My first adventure was done in two parts. At the end of May I experienced one day of the building of the Pawnee Earth Lodge at the Great Platte River Road Archway in Kearney. And in the middle of June I was present for the dedication of the earth lodge. I felt blessed to be able to spend time with the lead builder and architect Cody Spotted Horse to talk about the construction and the future of the earth lodge. The entire story of the building of the earth lodge, the dedication and the Dancers of the Plains event along with pictures are available on our website. I was truly humbled to be a small part of getting this project

completed and look forward to helping create the hands-on living classroom within the earth lodge. Look for additional curricular materials on the website this fall in relation to teaching about the Pawnee and Arikara tribes.

Another of the adventures that I had the opportunity to experience in July was my first visit to Montana and the sight of the Battle of the Little Big Horn. I was so overcome with emotion as I stood on the east terrace of the visitor center looking down into the gully where the Warriors came from and up onto the hill where Custer died that I was speechless and tearful. The National Park Service renamed the area the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Memorial in 1991 and ordered construction of an Indian Memorial. A winning design was named in 1997.

*"The Indian Memorial stands 75 yards northeast of the 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry monument, a circular earthwork carved gently into the prairie. Visitors inside the memorial see a view of the Cavalry obelisk through a "spirit gate" window. The spirit gate welcomes the Cavalry dead symbolically into the memorial's circle. For many tribes, a circle is sacred, and it remains open*

*for ceremonial events. The surrounding walls carry the names of those who fell here as well as the words of some who fought in the battle."* It was while standing within this circle alone with the prairie winds blowing at me from the North looking at the Spirit Warrior sculpture that I cried. I entered the circle from the east and walked around reading the names of the warriors who had died as others took pictures and then found myself alone to soak in the significance of what this memorial stood for. The quiet engulfed me. I wondered if I had had relatives there. I thought about how this event was one more step towards the demise of a way of life that although not perfect, easy or simple, was still significant and I felt sadness overtake me. Even today as I look at the pictures and remember that day my eyes are moist with tears and my heart aches.

Just when you think things are going to slow down something comes along that provides you with an unexpected adventure. So here's wishing all of you a wonderful school year full of adventures in equity education!

Battle of the Little Big Horn Website:  
<http://www.nps.gov/libi/index.htm>

### Educators Using Twitter

Do we need to prepare our youth for the digital age or are they preparing us? Twitter guide of Twitter etiquette? Tweet 140 characters? Learn Twitter in ten minutes or less? [See page 4](#)



### Symposium Date Set

Motivating Unmotivated Students.. Ron Glodowski keynote. Sponsored by ESU 1 and Nebraska Department of Education.  
[See page 4.](#)



November 9-10, 2010  
Kearney NE  
Kearney Holiday Inn

[See page 5.](#)

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**"Shift focus...identify what students "lack" academically and/or in their home or community environments to acknowledge what students know and bring with them to school?"**  
Keffrelyn Brown

## *Evaluating Sociocultural Knowledge:*

### *Dismantling How We Talk about and Approach the K-12 Black Student*

*Dr. Keffrelyn Brown, assistant professor at the University of Texas at Austin, department of curriculum and instruction*

Courtesy of [LeadCast](#) blog.

...Every semester I consistently hear terms like: loud, lazy, gangster, troublemaker and at-risk and each time I am floored by the words shared. Neither these terms nor their connoted meanings correspond with words or perspectives used to describe students viewed as having the potential to learn. I am also saddened by the taken-for-granted way students approach this task. This is evident in the rapid, yet apathetic, nonchalant manner in which students come up with and offer these words. They do not question the negative

nature of the terms, nor the consistency of the terms offered. It is not until we discuss the activity that students think about the implications this way of talking about Black K-12 students might have on their education.

.....another article highlight

The first approach places blame for the negative schooling conditions faced by Black students on the student, family, community or racial/cultural group in which the student is a member. This approach draws from a deficiency model that does not recognize nor

acknowledge the resources and assets that students, families and communities possess. This approach also serves as a scapegoat, taking the responsibility off schools and teachers to teach all students, including Black students, well.

We encourage you to read the entire article at [LeadCast](#).

## **Indian Removal: Does History Always Reflect Progress?**

Grade Level: 9-12 with standards reference

[Teaching Tolerance Curriculum](#)

The Indian Removal Act of 1830 was passed 180 years ago. This law made possible the Trail of Tears, one of the greatest tragedies in American history



# Sleep: The secret weapon for school success

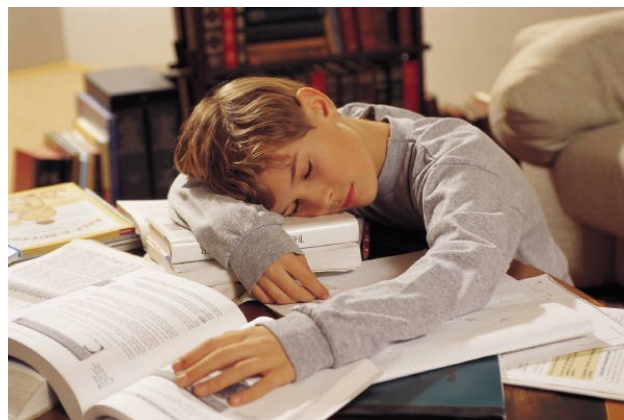
*Lack of sleep is a national epidemic for today's children, and the consequences are serious.*

By GreatSchool. Read the entire article by following this [link](#)

Kids require 10-11 hours of sleep. Lack of sleep can lead to diabetes, obesity, heart disease and depression.

Most common reasons for lack of sleep:

1. Extracurricular activities such as sport teams taking up time
2. Too much homework
3. Distractions such as television, computers and video games
4. Parents working early evening hours and wanting to spend quality time
5. No proper supervision/rules



Health officials and sleep experts say catching up on the "z's" during the weekend can make it harder come Monday morning for school.

So why he/she is not paying attention, can't stay focused, has behavioral problems, craves carbohydrates and gets sick a lot, just maybe they are exhausted Mom and Dad!!!

## U.S. Department of Education Seeking Peer Reviewers

U.S. Department of Education, Office of English Language Acquisition is seeking peer reviewers with experience in ESL and American Indian programs to read and evaluate discretionary grant applications for FY 2011.

February 4, 2011 to February 15, 2011

Read 2 applications per day sent via G5 e-Reader

Conference with panel every day (no travel)

Panelist will evaluation and score applications against criteria.

G5 e-Reader requires you to have access to the internet from home, Microsoft Word and cookies and JavaScript enabled in your browser.

Fee is a flat honorarium based on the established number of reading days and applications. If selected you will be informed of the amount of the honorarium.

Application deadline: November 1, 2010

Contact [askncela@gwu.edu](mailto:askncela@gwu.edu) for information.

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**"I like a teacher who gives you something to take home to think about besides homework."**  
Lily Tomlin



There are beginner's guide to Twitter, video on how to tweet, Twitter etiquette and how to master Twitter in ten minutes or less.

Do we need to prepare our youth for the digital age or are they preparing us?



Several articles suggest tweeting can even help you the teacher. Your lunch time is full and speaking with your colleagues is difficult. So tweet, join a group of teachers for a classroom supermarket of ideas. Use Twitter also for a sounding board and get instant feedback.

Teaching yourself to develop reading and writing skills with a maximum of 140 characters demands a precise writing style.

Teachers are using Twitter to remind students of

homework or tests. Many universities around the world utilize Twitter. Students are conducting research polls and online scavenger hunts. One example is a student group is tasked with finding twenty key facts on the Civil War that are not widely known. Once a fact is posted the other groups can not use it.

Visit [twitter.com](http://twitter.com) and read their guide to businesses and schools.

## Ron Glodoski

### "Motivating Unmotivated Students"

Native American Symposium  
November 1, 2010  
Wayne State College



As a national recognized speaker, Ron's **powerful** interactive session reinforces RTI Behavior Intervention Strategies.

A must see **professional development program** designed for educators, administrators and mental health professionals.

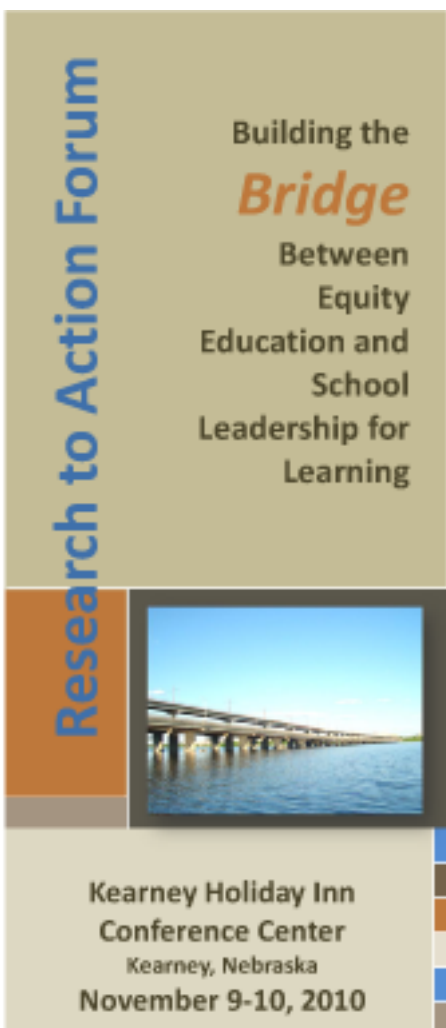
You'll gain classroom tools, methods, understand why kids stop learning and a **renewed sense of purpose.**

Sponsors  
Nebraska Department of Education and ESU 1  
Online registration at [www.education.ne.gov/mce](http://www.education.ne.gov/mce)



Symposium





This conference is specifically designed as an opportunity to create a forum for NDE, ESU, school leaders, higher education and policy makers to focus on creating culturally responsive educational initiatives that support the educational outcomes for all students. Our keynote speakers are national leaders in the area of educational leadership and culturally responsive education. They are all very excited about the opportunity to come to Nebraska and meet with our educational leaders from across the state. Together we can identify common concerns and begin to create action plans that you can implement within your individual institutions.

#### Our Forum Audience

- ✓ School Teams Schools are expected to send a leadership team of 3-5 minimum that may include: administrators, teacher-leaders, curriculum directors, school board members, federal programs staff
- ✓ Policy Makers
- ✓ Post Secondary Teacher Education Department Teams
- ✓ Nebraska Department of Education Staff Teams
- ✓ Educational Service Unit Teams

#### Speakers:

Dr. Thomas Peacock  
Dr. Sharroky Hollie  
Dr. Bradley Scott

Visit our website to download the brochure and register online. <http://www.education.ne.gov/mce>

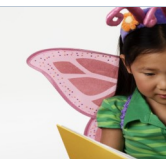
## Book Review Section

### *The Last Stand* by Nathaniel Philbrick

*"With an instinct for finding both the dark and the honorable threads in American history, Philbrick probes the ultimately tragic story of how two talented leaders and their followers embarked on converging voyages across the plains of North America, leading us to the disturbing realization that nothing ended at the Little Bighorn."* (book jacket of *The Last Stand*)

On July 30, 2010 The Lincoln Journal Star offered the following review of the book *The Last Stand* which provides insight into the Battle of the Little Big Horn. I encourage you to take a look at it and possibly integrate it into your literature rotation. Although I have not completed reading it, what I have read so far is very good and very interesting. I purchased the book at a Barnes & Noble but I'm sure it is also available on your favorite website for purchase or other local bookstores. You may also want to check your local library if you would like to read it before purchasing.

[http://journalstar.com/entertainment/arts-and-culture/books/article\\_1352714c-9c32-11df-ab03-001cc4c002e0.html](http://journalstar.com/entertainment/arts-and-culture/books/article_1352714c-9c32-11df-ab03-001cc4c002e0.html)



"We worry about what a child will become tomorrow,  
yet we forget that he is someone today."  
*Stacia Trauscher*

## NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION NEW LOOK

DEPARTMENT AND MULTICULTURAL OFFICE HAVE NEW LOGOS AND WEB ADDRESS CHANGES

New department logo

New multicultural education logo

New Drum logo



All web addresses change for the Nebraska Department of Education July 1.

**NEW**

[www.education.ne.gov](http://www.education.ne.gov)

Multicultural and the Native American websites have been combined and streamlined.

[www.education.ne.gov/mce](http://www.education.ne.gov/mce)

We encourage you to change your bookmarks/favorites as soon as read this.



Published quarterly by NDE's Multicultural Office  
"HOT TOPICS" for  
parents and educators. Hot news on hot topics.



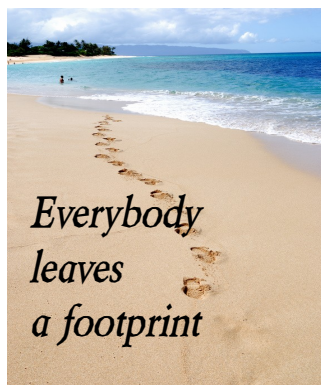
## IN EVERY DELIBRATION WE MUST CONSIDER THE IMPACT ON THE NEXT SEVEN GENERATIONS

The N7 Fund was created by Nike in 2007 to unleash the human potential of Native American youth through the power of sports and physical activity.

Nike designed their N7 clothing and shoe collection inspired by Native American colors.

Their belief is what we do today impacts our next seven generations and supported by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Applications for 2011 funding are now available at their website. Any school or organization with a 501(c)3 status can apply.



Website application information <http://www.niken7.com/>



## CVS Caremark: Community Grants

CVS Caremark Community Grants support programs that promote independence among children with disabilities, including physical and occupational therapies, speech and hearing therapies, and assistive technology and recreational therapies. Eligibility: nonprofit organizations that serve children with disabilities, located in a state that has a CVS pharmacy/store. Maximum award: **\$5,000.**

**Deadline: October 31, 2010.**

<http://info.cvscaremark.com/community/our-impact/community-grants/children-disabilities>

## State Farm: Company Grants

State Farm is committed to meeting the needs of communities by giving in three areas: Safe Neighbors (safety), Strong Neighborhoods (community development), and Education Excellence (education). Maximum award: varies. Eligibility: nonprofit, 501(c)3 organizations; Canadian charitable organizations, educational institutions, and governmental entities.

**Deadline: October 31, 2010.**

[http://www.statefarm.com/about/part\\_spos/grants/cogrants.asp](http://www.statefarm.com/about/part_spos/grants/cogrants.asp)

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"Now that it's all over, what did you really do yesterday that's worth mentioning?"  
Coleman Cox

Save the Date!



### 7th Annual Hispanic/Latino Summit "La Raza Cósmica"

Monday, September 20, 2010  
Embassy Suites Omaha - La Vista  
Hotel & Conference Center  
12520 Westport Parkway  
La Vista, NE 68128

Sponsored by :

Nebraska Department of Education in partnership with the Mexican-American Commission

Target Audience: Educators, Community Members, Parents, Students

For more information: [www.latinosummit.org](http://www.latinosummit.org)

Contact: Kelly or Angie 1-800-793-6272 or 402-476-8055



<http://www.niea.org/events/overview.php>

Newsletter Editor: Carol Rempp  
Co-editor, Layout/Design: Peg Kirby



301 Centennial Mall South  
Lincoln NE 68509

402 471 2960  
<http://www.education.ne.gov/mce>